



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20535

February 10, 2017

TO: ALL CJIS SYSTEMS OFFICERS AND STATE UCR PROGRAM MANAGERS
RE: THE NATIONAL USE-OF-FORCE DATA COLLECTION

Recent events across the nation have underscored the importance of having informed conversations about policing. Serious debates are taking place about how law enforcement personnel relate to the communities they serve, how we use force in our work, and real or perceived biases. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has a longstanding history of collecting and providing crime statistics for transparency in policing. Today, more than ever, we need to collect nationwide data on law enforcement's use of force.

At the request of major law enforcement organizations, as well as local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies, the FBI is developing a national database to track law enforcement's use of force and serve as the repository for this data. On February 9, 2016, I concurred with a Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Advisory Policy Board (APB) recommendation establishing new data collection on law enforcement uses of force that result in the death or serious bodily injury of a person, or when a firearm is discharged at or in the direction of a person. Building upon CJIS APB recommendations, we also established a Use-of-Force Task Force to finalize the scope and content of this new data collection.

The National Use-of-Force Data Collection will allow us to see a complete nationwide picture of law enforcement encounters with civilians, and that picture will help inform the conversations we need to have to improve policing policy and officer safety. I encourage your participation in this effort so we can provide the American people more comprehensive and meaningful data.

For further information, please visit www.fbi.gov/use-of-force, or contact my staff at useofforce@ic.fbi.gov. I am grateful for your help. I believe our nation will be better served for it.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James B. Comey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James B. Comey
Director